This collection of original essays is dedicated to the intersections between medieval and postcolonial studies. Ranging across a variety of academic disciplines, from art history to cartography, and from Anglo-Saxon to Arabic studies, this volume highlights the connections between medieval and postcolonial studies by exploring a theme common to both areas of study: translation as a mechanism of and metaphor for cultures in contact, confrontation, and competition. Drawing upon the widespread medieval trope of *translatio studii et imperii* (the translation of culture and empire), this collection engages the concept of translation from its most narrow, lexicographic sense, to the broader applications of its literal meaning, “to carry across.” It carries the multilingual, multicultural realities of medieval studies to postcolonial analyses of the coercive and subversive powers of cultural translation, offering a set of case studies of translation as the transfer of language, culture, and power.

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POSTCOLONIAL APPROACHES TO THE EUROPEAN MIDDLE AGES
Translating Cultures

Edited by
ANANYA JAHANARA KABIR
University of Leeds

and
DEANNE WILLIAMS
York University
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15 Federico Barocci, The Flight of Aeneas from Troy. Reproduced by permission of the Instituto Centrale per il Catologo e la Documentazione, Ministero Beni e Attivita Culturali, Rome.
This book shows how continuities as well as disjunctions in time and space are crucial in conceptualizing historical processes. When we arrived at Oxford from Toronto and Calcutta to embark on our careers in medieval literature, we did not realize that we were, perhaps, post-colonial medievalists *avant la lettre*. What did strike us both then was the sudden expansion of spatial and temporal horizons that our new life entailed. This sense of wonder has sustained us, even as it has itself been sustained, during our subsequent intellectual journeys, parallel and intertwined. This collection of essays can be seen as its tangible avatar.

The collection was conceived through fruitful conversations during spring 2000; the many splendors (including gastronomic) of the Bay Area provided key inspiration. We would like to thank John Niles at the English Department, UC Berkeley, and the John Sias Dissertation Fellowship at Stanford University, for giving us the opportunity to be in (roughly) the same place at the same time. Seth Lerer and Ato Quayson encouraged this project from the very beginning, and we are grateful to them for their assistance.

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This book is dedicated to our mothers, Mary Chesney and Khairan Ara Kabir, and to the institution that brought us together, our alma mater, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.
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